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**SECOND WIND**

by Michael Bruce Shore

Trudge, trudge, ... squish.  
 Now the other foot is soaked. I feel moisture wicking up my socks, chilling the aching calf-muscles beneath. My hair is plastered to my ears, and my fingers are numb, reluctant to grip my precious cargo: The University of Alberta Registration Sheet and Course Cards.

Yet, as I tear through "Part III: Department Approval", this fall's early-winter rain is almost a pleasant distraction to the gnawing in my gut and dry apprehension in my throat. "Go!" Hurry up and wait! "Wrong sequence number, go back to..." and so on. Pressure to run, to jump into line, to grab any advantage, short of rudeness. That last wrong turn through HUB cost several minutes and the CMPUT lab I need. Maybe I could backtrack, switch ENGL to 1400, and HIST to 1830, cramming CMPUT in next year. But you are only allowed 7 junior courses in your degree, and my exams will be too close together, and the line-ups are right out of a Cecil B. DeMille movie (a cast of thousands), and... and... this... is... INSANE!

It is not my intention to seem ungrateful to all of the individuals and institutions who together have enhanced my endeavor towards higher education, and thus a better life. To them I extend sincere thanks and a commitment to do my best. But I am amazed. Amazed and frustrated that in this day and age we are obliged to perform the human equivalence of pin-balls: being shot up the slot, bounced off bureaucratic bumpers, spun around in calendar mazes, only to be dropped sobbing into yet another queue. Pray for those of us for whom the whole game has gone 'TILT'.

I consider myself lucky in that I was able to score nearly all of my lectures and labs. This was accom-

plished through a lot of preparation, reconnaissance foot-work, fall-backs, and by being a bit of a jerk. Others were less aggressive or timely, many had much more complicated timetables because of their faculty's requirements. Why does a diminutive English-major have to elbow his or her way into an ENGL 200 queue along with 127 mechanical engineers (not that they shouldn't be able to take English if they wish). As is the case in most crowd-scenes, the fastest and burliest are usually the most successful. Competition in the academic sense is laudable, but not when it is like this.

Why do courses that are the most difficult to enter have the highest sequence numbers, so they must be left until they are either filled or canceled? This is 1984, why are they still using punch-cards? Surely, the expense in time, dollars, and manpower required to mount and maintain this dinosaur should be weighed against that of installing a more up-to-date, less random method. Other universities use networks of V.D.T.'s with which one can arrange, with a counselor's help, course-load, scheduling, faculty approval, even to call up transcripts, nearly all at the same time. At the University of Calgary, they still have a few line-ups, but at least they don't start classes a week late. By comparison, the sheer bulk of the population at dear U. of A. should render computerization imperative, not simply a daunting task.

Finally, why do they wait until you are exhausted and dishevelled beyond recognition before they tell you to say, "CHEESE", then snap your picture? Somebody up there has a very bleak, dark sense of humour.

This autumn's little odyssey has convinced me to try one of two stratagems next year: (a) study public administration and devote the rest of my career to implementing a friendly, comprehensive chain of on-line terminals; or (b) take hostages. The second option sounds like it would be more fun. Contact me at this paper if you are interested, or if you have an axe to grind. Don't forget to bring it.

WELCOME TO GENETICS 356.  
 LET ME GET ONE  
 THING STRAIGHT.  
 WE ARE SCIENTISTS,  
 NOT MANIACS BENT  
 ON CREATING  
 MONSTERS! THAT'S  
 STRICTLY S.F.!!



DOWN BOY!  
 DOWN BOY!  
 WHACK  
 WHACK  
 AAAAGG!  
 IGOR HUNGRY!  
 IGOR HUNGRY!



IT'S FUNNY  
 HOW THE  
 PUBLIC  
 MISUNDERSTANDS  
 THE STUDY OF  
 GENETICS!



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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 • 8:00 pm  
 THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK • G



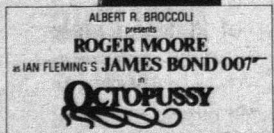
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 8:00 pm  
 THE RIGHT STUFF • PG



007 DOUBLE FEATURE\*



SATURDAY,  
 SEPTEMBER 15  
 7:00 pm  
 OCTOPUSSY • PG  
 9:30 pm  
 THE MAN WITH THE  
 GOLDEN GUN • PG



How much love, sex, fun and  
 friendship can a person take?  
 They're eight old friends who haven't seen each  
 other since the sixties. Searching for something  
 they've lost. And finding all they need is each other.



SUNDAY,  
 SEPTEMBER 16  
 8:00 pm  
 THE BIG CHILL  
 R

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 8:00 pm • Fanny and Alexander • M  
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 • 8:00 pm  
 EXPERIENCE PREFERRED... BUT NOT ESSENTIAL • M  
 SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 • 8:00 pm • SILKWOOD • M  
 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 • 8:00 pm • NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION • M  
 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 • 8:00 pm • TERMS OF ENDEARMENT • M  
**EDDY MURPHY DOUBLE FEATURE\*** — FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28  
 7:00 pm • 48 HOURS • R      9:00 pm • TRADING PLACES • M

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